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August 16, 20¹³07

Randy Johnson, Commissioner
Hennepin County

Dear Randy:

I received your August 13 letter yesterday. A copy is enclosed. I find it very interesting.

You don't respond to my questions, but then ask me questions, and apparently copy your fellow commissioners. I will answer your questions; I will continue to ask you and the others for specific answers to my questions, as a citizen.

I had no interest in what flag flew where, including the UN flag, until the Hennepin County action, in which you and most of your current colleagues were and are active participants, surfaced for me, in late December, 2012. As I've noted before, I was simply looking for an elusive fact, which I finally found in former Minneapolis Mayor Arthur Naftalins archival papers at the MN Historical Society. All of the rest you know.

In my first letter to you Commissioners, I said "I have no formal standing" in Hennepin County. It occurs to me, though, that I pay taxes like everyone else, and I would guess considerable amounts of my state and federal taxes flow into your coffers; and I am very frequently in Hennepin County. In fact, immediately before I got your letter, I had lunch with a retired colleague in a Minneapolis restaurant; we were preparing for a reunion in another Hennepin County town tomorrow. I could generate a very long list....

Succinctly, you are not some independent country. I may not be able to vote you in or out of office, at least directly, but I do have the right to ask a question and get a straight answer.

You will continue to hear from me. You dishonor your predecessors in your obstruction.

c: Commissioners

RANDY JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER



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BOARD OF HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
A-2400 GOVERNMENT CENTER
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55487-0240

*Need
8/15-13*

August 13, 2013

Dick Bernard
6905 Romeo Road
Woodbury, MN 55125-2421

Dear Mr. Bernard,

I have received several letters from you regarding the flags that fly at the Hennepin County Government Center. Commissioner Mike Opat, chair of our Board has responded and I agree with him. You continue to write to all the Hennepin County Commissioners urging that we fly the United Nations flag at the Government Center Plaza.

I note that you live in the city of Woodbury in Washington County. It appears that neither Woodbury City Hall nor the Washington County Government Center Campus fly the United Nations flag.

I respectfully suggest you work first on persuading the city and the county where you live to fly the United Nations flag and then, if successful, continue your efforts to persuade others to do so.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Johnson".

Randy Johnson
Hennepin County Commissioner
District 5

Cc: Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

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- note Lynn Elling
(Lynn, 92, is still a Minneapolis resident + was one of the prime movers of the 1968 initiative.)

December 29, 2012

TO: Members of Hennepin County Board

Yesterday, unsolicited and totally unexpected, I learned of the Hennepin County Board action noted on the reverse of this letter.

This came as a shock to me, since for a number of months, culminating within the last couple of weeks, I was attempting to ferret out the history of the Minneapolis/Hennepin County Declaration of World Citizenship March 5, 1968, and trying to find out the date the UN flag flew proudly beside the U.S. flag at the City Hall. That turned out to be May 1, 1968. Many of the details are in the enclosure. The keynote speaker that day was Gov. Elmer L. Andersen, who thought his speech on the importance of the UN and World Citizenship was so important that he included it in his book, "I Trust to be Believed", edited by Lori Sturdevant and published shortly before his death in 2004. The speech in question is at pages 151-152 in the brief chapter on World Citizenship.

BEST I
CAN GATHER
THIS WAS
COMPLETELY
BI-PARTISAN

In your action a few months ago you essentially destroyed the essence of a bipartisan and very carefully discussed decision for Minneapolis and Hennepin County to become, most likely, the first community in the United States to declare themselves World Citizens.

It appears that you relied on erroneous interpretation of the U.S. Flag Code as well. I can see nothing in that code that renders what was first done May 1, 1968, in front of Minneapolis City Hall, to be improper by even the strictest reading of the code (the violation of which, by the way, carries no penalty. The issue is freedom of speech.)

LATER RESEARCH
AFFIRMED
THIS CLAIM.

I am not a scholar of parliamentary procedure, but it appears that four of you continue on the Board who voted for the Resolution last March. It would be a simple matter to bring this matter up for reconsideration and reverse your earlier decision. Cynically, you could essentially hide it from public view, as you apparently did last March as well.

As for myself, while I've lived in Minnesota for 49 of my 72 years, including 39 in the Twin Cities, I have never been a resident of either Minneapolis or Hennepin County. So I have no formal standing. At the same time, I am not naive, either, and in my limited spheres, I am going to do my best to call this matter to public attention. I have much more to say about this history, with or without your interest.

Reverse your decision.

c: Minneapolis City Council
Mayor R. T. Rybak

↑
I have barely
begun working
on this.

(over)

BOARD MINUTES

BOARD OF HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, March 27, 2012
1:30 PM

The Board of County Commissioners of Hennepin County, Minnesota, met in the Hennepin County Government Center in the City of Minneapolis, at 1:34 PM.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Opat, Chair, and all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioners McLaughlin and Jeff Johnson.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 375.12 and Hennepin County Board Resolution No. 04-5-232, the County Board has directed the Clerk of the Board to publish the board proceedings in a summary manner that conforms to Minnesota Statute 331A.01. The following includes item descriptions, resolution numbers and final disposition of each item dealt with at the meeting. The full text of the board proceedings is available in the Clerk of the Board's office located at A2400 Government Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota and also is available at www.hennepin.us, the County's website.

*

Last of many items on what appears to be a consent agenda of the Board.

12-0167

Display of Flags at the Government Center North Plaza

Resolution No. 12-0167

The following Resolution was moved by Commissioner Opat, seconded by Commissioner Stenglein

BE IT RESOLVED, that Resolution 86-7-539 is hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Property Services is directed to fly at the Government Center North Plaza solely the flags of the United States, Minnesota and Hennepin County, in compliance with the U.S. Flag Code.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON 3/27/12

On motion, the County Board adjourned at 2:01 PM, until Tuesday, March 27, 2012.

↑
*Your official
reason for
your action.
I have seen
no evidence
thus I doubt
there is any
evidence.*

Sent 7/13/13
Not in
8/16/13
MAILING

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July 13, 2013
3rd request
I request
individual responses,
not a group —
Dick Bernard

May 11, 2012³

Hennepin County Commissioners

Dear Commissioner Opat:

One month ago, April 12, 2013, I hand-delivered a letter with a number of questions. To date, there has been no response from any Commissioner.

still no response as of
July 13, 2013

REGARDING THE MARCH 27, 2012 ACTION:

QUESTIONS FOR EACH HENNEPIN COUNTY BOARD MEMBER:

1. Specifically what constitutes Mr. Opat's "slightly out of compliance" statement? I'd like to know exactly what was "out of compliance".
2. Who, specifically, first raised this issue with the Hennepin County Board, and when did this happen?
3. What public hearings were advertised and held on this matter before the March 27, 2012 action was taken?
4. Which of the flags currently flying on the Plaza replaced the UN Flag?
5. If you voted on this issue on March 27, 2012 (presumably "aye"), why did you vote as you did?
6. There are costs to this action, more than the cost of a flag. Have you even thought about these costs, such as cost to reputation of the County?

I am patient and I am persistent.

My main interest is that the United Nations flag be restored to the place on the Plaza it occupied prior to March 27, 2012. There was no legal reason remove it, though legality was the reason given.